



■ Box 181, Center Lovell, Maine 04016

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2006

President's Message

This has been an outstanding year for the GLLT. We celebrated our 21st year by the \$400,000 purchase of the 200 acre Sucker Brook Project which provides permanent conservation of an additional 4000 feet of this unique local resource. We are pleased with the public benefit that we are now able to provide as the preservation of the Sucker Brook environs is prioritized for protection in the existing Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Lovell as an invaluable resource. It is a key element in the ecosystem that helps maintain the water quality of the lower bay of Kezar Lake. We are thankful to the Land for Maine's Future Program for its \$153,000 grant and to over 200 donors who provided the remaining \$281,500 necessary to complete this project. We have worked in conjunction with Maine Woodland Properties, the development company from whom we purchased this property, and are thankful for their full cooperation.

We are pleased to announce an agreement to purchase 130 acres of forestland for watershed protection at the headwaters of the Kezar River. This project is scheduled to close by year end due to the hard work and generosity of many individuals and the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association.

We have also instituted our Conservation Planning Study of the Kezar Lake, Kezar River and Cold River watersheds. This study has been made possible by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant of \$73,000 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007. It will enable us to prioritize and strategize for the preservation of contiguous ecologically significant areas as we seek to preserve our treasured watershed and ecosystems.

At a retreat this year, the GLLT revisited and revised its Mission Statement. We divided it into a vision and mission statement. Our goal is to protect the ecosystems of Kezar Lake and its adjacent watersheds. We will accomplish this goal by promoting responsible preservation, conservation, stewardship, development, public policy and appreciation of natural resources.

The Pleasant Point Inn situation has not been fully resolved but we are hopeful of a final favorable resolution this winter. There was a recent settlement agreement that in effect limits the Pleasant Point Realty Trust/Conway Lake Resorts Inc. to usage of sixteen boat slips and one dock. This should limit excessive boat traffic near the town beach.

We are planning for the future. We are working to expand our membership and hope that our members will consider giving their children memberships in the GLLT this winter and encourage them to continue these memberships on their own in the future. We are also in need of your support for our operating budget and welcome unrestricted contributions as we make our annual appeal with this newsletter. In addition, we are including information for those who may want to help us build our endowment through our Planned Giving program. As we evolve as an organization, we are constantly seeking ways to improve our way of servicing this community and living up to our mission.

Again, I thank all our members for all they have done. Your support has made our successes possible.

Howard A. Corwin, M.D.
President

Executive Director's Message

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

If not for the Sucker Brook Project, I may have missed it all together! I was working in Lower Bay on a mid-August afternoon with a fine group of volunteers for the Sucker Brook Project. We were encouraging contributions to the project in order to preserve water quality and important habitats upon which our native species depend. We witnessed a thrilling and unexpected display of nature. A mature bald eagle descended upon the surface of the water soon after to slowly rise with what any angler would consider a respectable catch. A magnificent show of strength brought the hunter and the prey upward a hundred feet or more above Lower Bay. As it turned southward to the Outlet Fen, we noticed, overhead, an immature eagle hurriedly approaching from the tall pines to our west. Was this to be lunch for the young eagle? As it neared the parent, the mature eagle dropped the fish to the water as if to say, "See, now you go catch it." Your support of the Sucker Brook Project has ensured, though occasionally we may miss such seasonal displays, the opportunity will never be lost.

So why, after such a wonderful and productive year are my thoughts on "What am I missing?" What could I possibly be missing? True, I miss the magnificent butterflies, hummingbirds and pollinators that graced the demonstration "Garden for Beneficials" at the office. But we initiated the Cranberries for Conservation™ program this fall and my dinner plate is not missing wild Kezar cranberries.

The hawks have migrated south but I did not miss the migration as my family witnessed dozens on a hawk watch hosted by Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Ecological data is still missing for the Cold River, Kezar River and Kezar Lake watersheds, but not for long. The Conservation Plan is funded and this valuable information will soon be guiding future conservation efforts.

So what am I missing? Perhaps the truth is not much. Instead encouraged by so many valuable projects, great programs and inspirational experiences, I simply yearn for more. Our special place offers so much to explore, experience and appreciate that I can not possibly capture it all. As the GLLT advances its mission, I am convinced and will tell myself with a smile and great pride, "Yes, at this very moment, something wild and fantastic is happening and I am missing it!"

If you missed "Gardening for Beneficials" there is plenty of time to plan for next year. Order your Cranberries for Conservation™ early so you do not miss the 2007 fall bounty. Don't be left out! Contributions are still being accepted to raise the remaining \$35,000 needed to pay for the Sucker Brook Project. Additionally, do not miss your chance to support the mission of the GLLT now and in 2007. We have much to do to ensure that today's missed moments do not become lost opportunities.

*Celebrating
21 Years
of Service*

www.gllt.org

Welcome to our website.
E-mail us with questions
and suggestions.
There is a lot of news at...

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Expanded Opportunities in the Wilderness Next Door

Kevin Harding, Education Coordinator

When friends from “away” visit our cabin in Lovell I am often asked how do I spend my time in the nearby forest? For most visitors a walk in the woods often means getting to a destination and testing one’s stamina climbing or hiking. There is certainly nothing wrong with that approach. I often take a fast walk through the Heald and Bradley Pond area to get exercise in a beautiful setting. But many of my outings cover a short distance at a slow pace so I can enjoy the “wilderness”. Most folks probably think of distant places free of human intervention and full of charismatic mega fauna when they use the word wilderness, but the truth is that there is a kind of wilderness right out our back door. I often see evidence of deer, moose, bear, fox, bobcat, coyote, turkey, grouse, raccoon, mink, beaver, otter and other creatures most often associated with the wild outdoors.

There are even those rare occasions when a coyote will step out into a clearing or a moose will appear on the shore of the pond. More often it is the small signs left behind like a simple turn of a log, a disturbed patch of soil or the incisor marks on a mushroom to arouse the joy of experiencing a small wilderness. These moments occur when I take the time to stop, look, and listen. I remember a high school biology teacher who made me spend hours studying one square foot of ground to better appreciate all there was to see. Sadly, it took more “growing up” for me to fully appreciate what he was trying to teach me.

We can teach our children and ourselves to use our own senses to discover the gems of nature and experience the joy of an exploration in the woods.

A child’s wilderness may be as small as a fresh look at a lichen, toad, raccoon print, or an interesting plant. The GLLT has opened a new nature trail at our Sucker Brook preserve designed especially for school age children to help them begin the process of feeling at home in the woods. There are eight stations with signs for both adults and children that invite participants to stop and explore.

You don’t have to see a dramatic animal like a moose to get excited about what is going on out there, but then again, one never knows what you might encounter. Why not slow down the pace of life and try a family hike at Sucker Brook on our newly labeled trail.

Adults wishing to work a bit harder at discovering the “wilderness next door” are encouraged to participate in a GLLT sponsored, 2-day naturalist course in the Summer of 2007. The course will include suggested readings, field studies, and explorations off the beaten path. If you have enjoyed our short two or three hour experiences on the weekly walks and want to learn more, this experience might be for you. This is not just a course designed to teach you to identify a tree or an animal track. Naming a tree is important in order to share information, but knowing the name is only the first step towards an understanding how that tree is connected to all that is the forest. We can only begin to scratch the surface in a short experience, but our goal is to get you excited enough to begin the process of building a new relationship with the wilderness out your back door.

Many of us have taken traditional courses designed to earn credits to degree requirements. Life long learning is without doubt one of the magic keys to greater happiness and fulfillment. GLLT educational experiences are designed to challenge, excite, and even entertain. As a high school teacher I would often tell my students that some learning is just plain work, but master the basics and find your passion, and learning is like eating the cookies without the calories.

So please come and join us next season whether it be by taking your family on a walk on our trails, joining one of our weekly walks, attending a talk at the library, or enrolling in our new courses. There are no calories and the food is great!

Cranberries for Conservation™

Tom Henderson, Executive Director

This was the first year for the GLLT to test its trademark program "Cranberries for Conservation".

Volunteers ventured into the bogs at the Kezar Outlet Fen on crisp October mornings to pick wild Kezar cranberries. These treasured native fruits have grown naturally for millennia in the fens and bogs of our northern region. The wild cranberries of Kezar ripen after the summer solstice on short stalks hidden under marsh grass and sedges, with berries resting on blankets of golden sphagnum moss. The cranberries mature in the moist fog drenched mornings of early autumn and are ripened to a tart sweetness by the warmth of the mid-day sun. Our volunteers hand-picked, cleaned, packaged and shipped over 50 pounds to locations throughout the country even as far as California, Oregon and Montana!

Special thanks go out to the following for making the first harvest a huge success: Mary-Louise Blanchard, Susie Eastman, Margaret Nomentana, Frank Robey and Ann Williams, our hard working pickers and packers.

The "Cranberries for Conservation™" program is a trademark program of the GLLT with the goal of reconnecting individuals and communities to the life sustaining power of the land. Wild cranberries were at one time a prized local resource adorning many a late season meal. In earlier days the bogs would be cut for hay in August and revisited again in October to gather the berries. This tradition waned by mid-century, except for the few that knew of the "lost secrets" of the wild cranberry.

Our land and waters have always provided for our most basic needs: clean water, nourishing food, clothing and wood for shelter, and for our emotional and spiritual needs. Through this program, we hope to instill an appreciation and respect for the giving power of the land and waters, which are solidly embraced by future generations.

The GLLT will be expanding our "Cranberries for Conservation™" program in 2007 and for years to come. Stay tuned to the website to learn how you can share in next year's bounty. We appreciate the many customers who made this first harvest possible and look forward to many new and satisfied customers in years to come.

*Have you considered
naming the GLLT
in your estate plans?*

Everyone has the capacity to leave a legacy to the organizations they care most about. There are a number of simple ways you can make a lasting gift for local land conservation. The GLLT has established a Pooled Income Fund with the Maine Community Foundation which can be named as a beneficiary in your will, IRA or charitable trust. Please contact us for more information on this and other options available to provide a legacy for future generations.

New Federal Law Affecting Charitable Gifts

The Congress passed and on August 17 the President signed H.R. 4 making changes to Section 170 of title 26 of the US Tax Code, which deals with tax deductions for charitable giving. This legislation, HR 4, also known as the "Pension Protection Act" provides significant changes the US Tax Code for some forms of charitable giving. Individuals are encouraged to explore the new rules with their professional advisors to determine their personal eligibility.

Conservation Easements

Private landowners that voluntarily donate a conservation easement on their property may qualify for changes under HR4. The bill makes a number of changes to the law affecting the tax deductibility of donated conservation easements and provides some of the most favorable benefits to the landowner in 26 years. The changes apply only to easements donated between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007 and only to easements that allow for current or future forestry or farming activities. The basic changes are as follows:

- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation easement from 30% of adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
- Allows farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of AGI; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for the fair value (as defined) of a donated and voluntary conservation easement from 5 to 15 years.

Landowners, considering placing a conservation easement on their property are encouraged to speak with us early in 2007 to ensure completion of the transaction by the December 31, 2007 deadline.

IRA Donations

The "Pension Protection Act" also provides a special opportunity for donors, age 70 ½ or greater, to make charitable contributions using their IRAs. This creative new option may allow you greater flexibility in your support of land conservation. Qualified Charitable Distributions may not be subject to income tax previously incurred by such transactions. A Charitable IRA Rollover is not for everyone; however we wanted to make you aware of the option so you can determine if it is right for you. Again, the GLLT recommends you consult your tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances and to determine your eligibility under this change to the US Tax Code.

"Hear Ye, Hear Ye, spread the word!!"
Tell your friends, your neighbors! Everyone can help the GLLT with a click of the mouse.

What if the GLLT earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Well, now we can! The GLLT is registered with Good Search as a recipient of advertising revenues generated from the daily internet searches of people like you. For every internet search done through goodsearch.com advertisers will contribute \$0.01 to the GLLT. Imagine if 1,000 people search twice a day, the GLLT would receive \$7,300 annually, without anyone spending a dime.

Here's how:

1. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and add GoodSearch as one of your computer search options, or better yet make GoodSearch your homepage. Both options are easily accessed with one click at the bottom of the GoodSearch homepage.
2. At the same time enter the "Greater Lovell Land Trust" in the box entitled "I'm Supporting", thus directing contributions to the GLLT.

3. Ask your family and friends to do the same.
4. Do it today, and you can see daily how your choice made a difference. GoodSearch.com is a service powered by Yahoo so you get great results. They donate 50% of their advertising revenues to the charity of your choice. Thank you for making us the charity of your choice.

*"It's a Whole
New World
for Me."*

In late August, the last GLLT walk of the season brought seventeen folks to the Heald-Bradley preserve to hear about and see how seeds are dispersed from plants in our woods. As the walkers climbed Whiting Hill, they heard about the Tick Trefoil, Indian Cucumber, Hog Peanut, False Solomon Seal, Sweet Fern, Hop Hornbeam, Wild Oats, Striped Maple, Indian Pipe, Rattlesnake Plantain, Witch Hazel, Jewel Weed and other inhabitants of the trail side. Examples of seed dispersal by wind, expulsion, animal ingestion and stick-to-the-fur were found during the three hour walk. As the seed-forming process of the Jack-In-The-Pulpit was being discussed near the end of the trip, one of the walkers exclaimed, "It's a whole new world for me". What a great way to end the walk and the summer season.

Robert Winship, Vice President

Winter Walks

Please join families and friends for snowshoeing fun and wildlife tracking events this winter. Tracking is often good even if snow depths do not justify the snowshoes. Two walks are scheduled, but monitor the website for added programming through the winter.

Saturday, February 17
from 9-Noon

Meet at the Fairburn parking lot at the south end of Heald Pond off Slab City Road.

Saturday, March 3
from 9-Noon

Meet at the Wing Preserve at Sucker Brook off the Horseshoe Pond Road.

In addition, we will be offering an evening with owls at the Wing Preserve during the full moon weekend in March. Monitor the website for posting of this event in February.

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the passing of a true champion of community and fierce defender of Kezar Lake, Joan Irish. She served the Kezar Lake Association, as its President for 15 years, and steered its broader focus as it evolved into the Kezar Lake Watershed Association. For all of these 15 years, she served on the Board of Directors of the GLLT representing the KLWA with fervent regard to the quality of life for all that enjoyed the lake. She had strong emotional and

spiritual ties to Kezar Lake perhaps best exhibited by her love of the loons. She had great regard for the citizens of Lovell serving in many roles including several years on the Old Home Days committee. Joan believed in strengthening community bonds as an effective and enduring means of facing current and future challenges. Joan's passion and determination will inspire generations of community champions and defenders of the Kezar Lake watershed.

Help us Maintain Our Properties

We're the victims of our own success, and the demands on us for property maintenance are expanding constantly. We need several volunteers to help us re-paint our property boundaries.

We are planning a ten-year maintenance schedule, so this task will involve a commitment of one or two days per year.

Please contact the Properties Commission if you are willing to help

(Tom Henderson: 207 925-1056, tomgllt@earthlink.net; or Burgess Smith: 207 935-9177, stonect@pivot.net)

Progress Report

Watershed Conservation Plan

The GLLT is actively engaged in the development of a watershed Conservation Plan for an area collectively known as the eastern headwaters of the Upper Saco River. This area includes the Cold River, Kezar River and Kezar Lake watersheds. The project goal is to identify the ecological systems present and potential strategies to protect their current and future functional integrity. The intent is to draft a Conservation plan that enjoys broad community support and can be used as a resource to support and guide public and private land use decisions for years to come.

Currently the GLLT is working with an ecological consultant and computer mapping specialist to compile the data needed to identify the ecological systems present, the potential stresses on those systems,

and the potential sources of stress. In addition, a community Planning Group consisting of municipal planners, landowners, the GLLT and the KLWA, technical advisors and conservation partners, is being organized. This group will work with the consultants to verify data collected, identify potential sources of stress to the ecological systems, and to develop strategies for mitigating or preventing these stresses. The Planning Group is expected to begin its work in early 2007 as data becomes available from the ecological and mapping consultants.

The Conservation Plan is scheduled for completion by the end of 2007. We hope to have some preliminary results and draft planning documents available by late April to share with the community.

Five Kezar Ponds Project

The GLLT is pleased to announce we are under agreement to acquire, by year end, a 130 acre parcel in Stoneham to support watershed protection in the Kezar River watershed. The Kezar River watershed (over 30,000 acres) begins in the Towns of Waterford and Stoneham in a forested and sparsely populated area known as the Five Kezar Ponds. The river flows southwest through the Kezar Gorge, the Mill Pond at Lovell Village and empties into Kezar Pond before it becomes the waters of the larger Saco River.

The Kezar River system supports some of the highest quality ecological resources in the GLLT service area. Water quality remains pristine, wildlife habitat is rich and diverse and the productive forests are hosts to numerous unusual, rare or threatened plant species. We are fortunate to be working with the Five Kezar Pond Watershed Association to advance protection of these resources with local landowners. The Association's Land Protection Committee deserves credit for providing the full resources needed to accomplish this project.

The property sits at the headwaters of the Kezar River watershed rising to the height of land at McDaniels Hill which is the divide with the Kezar Lake watershed. It abuts to the north 2,500 acres of State protected land and to the south the 10 acres of shoreline at Back Pond held in fee by the GLLT. Currently, the GLLT owns 238 acres of property in the Kezar River watershed and 540 acres of conservation easements including the Eastman Hill Stock Farm, the Duncan Howlett Forest owned by the Small Woodland Owners of Maine, and property owned by the Town of Lovell. This project could not have been completed without the dedicated and focused efforts of the Five Kezar Ponds Watershed Association and its members.